



Juan Bautista de Anza Exploration of the San Francisco Bay Area, March & April 1776



The Anza Historic Trail

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail is administered by the U.S. National Park Service. This 1,210-mile historic route extends from Nogales, Arizona on the U.S.-Mexico border, through the desert and coastal areas in Southern California along the Central Coast region to the San Francisco Bay Area.

The trail commemorates the story of the 1775–1776 Spanish Expedition led by Lt. Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza. The expedition left Mexico with 240 settlers, soldiers, and others bound for Alta California to colonize the region, explore, and establish San Francisco's presidio and mission. Anza's smaller East Bay exploration in March and April of 1776 is displayed in the fourteen interpretive panels throughout the East Bay, produced in collaboration with the National Park Service.

We invite you to retrace the travels of Anza and learn about the profound changes set in motion by the Expedition on the future of the people and the land around us.





East Bay
Regional Park District



Follow the historic journey of Juan Bautista de Anza through what is now part of the East Bay Regional Park District.

ARDENWOOD HISTORIC FARM
Fremont 510-544-2797, awvisit@ebparks.org
BLACK DIAMOND MINES
Antioch 510-544-2750, bdvisit@ebparks.org

Berkeley 510-544-3169, www.nativeplants.org
COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK
Fremont 510-544-3220, chvisit@ebparks.org
GRAB COVE at CROWN BEACH
Alameda 510-544-3187, ccove@ebparks.org
SUNOL REGIONAL WILDERNESS
Sunnyvale 510-544-3249, svsitis@ebparks.org
TILDEN NATURE AREA/ECC
and LITTLE FARM
Berkeley 510-544-2233, tnarea@ebparks.org

Text: Michael Charnofsky & Beverly Ortiz
Design: Rachel Blau, Nick Cavanaugh, and Doyle Wegner
Map: Kara Haas, EBRPD GIS
Cover Painting: David Rickman, courtesy of the National Park Service

East Bay Regional Park District

P.O. Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605-0381
1-888-EBPARKS www.ebparks.org



George H. Cardinet, Jr.

George Cardinet has been called the Father of California Trails and the Grandfather of National Trails. A resident of Clayton and Concord, California he became a trail advocate in the early trail significantly contributed to California Hiking and Riding and the National Trails System which established an extensive and historic trails.



Courtesy of American Trails Magazine

When Anza and his followers traveled through the Bay Area, numerous groups of native peoples were living comfortably in small villages that dotted the landscape. This is what one of those villages may have looked like.



Drawing by Linda Yamane (Rumsien, an Ohlone tribe)

The Anza Expedition of 1775–1776

In 1775 and 1776 Lt. Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza, Father Pedro Font, along with 240 settlers, soldiers, and others traveled 1,200 miles from Sonora, Mexico to Monterey, California. Their purpose was to bring permanent colonists to Spain's Alta California.



J. B. Macdonald


After arriving in Monterey, Anza and Font led a smaller group to choose sites for the Mission and Presidio in San Francisco. Then, they investigated today's



From a painting by David Rickman

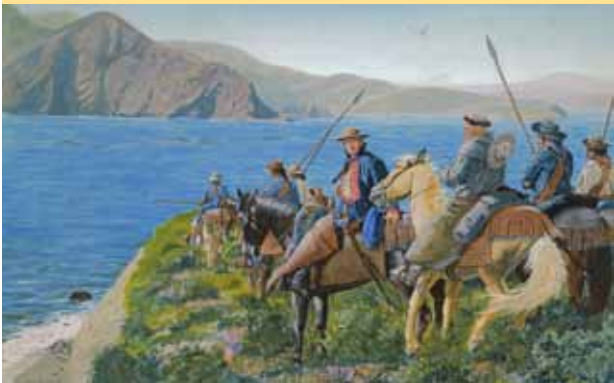
Alameda and Contra Costa Counties to see if there was a river running into the Bay, and explored further inland.

From a



Pedro Font

The travelers rode through diverse landscapes along the foothills, avoiding the marshes in low-lying areas. After traveling



Painting by David Rickman

The Anza party overlooking the Golden Gate from what is now San Francisco.

David Rickman paintings courtesy of the National Park Service.

along the Carquinez Strait and San Pablo and Suisun Bays, the impassable marshlands of the Delta prevented further exploration to the east, and the expedition returned to Monterey.



Drawings by Barbara Downs photo by Nick Cavaenaro

Profound Changes

Anza's expedition traveled well-worn trails used by Ohlone, Bay Miwok, and Northern Valley Yokuts peoples from several tribes, whose ancestors had lived in the East Bay for some 13,000 years. According to expedition diaries of Anza and Font, Native peoples responded to the newcomers with surprise, fear, and hospitality, including gifts of fish, seed "cakes," and other foods. In return the Spanish gave them glass beads.

For local tribal peoples, these encounters led to decades of disruption, dislocation, and suffering, first under Spanish rule, then under the Mexican and American governments. Despite this history, local tribal peoples find pride in preserving cultural traditions, bringing these forward into the future in both old and new ways, and work to preserve ancestral cultural sites.